



Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter One

January, 1999 • Newsletter • Number 6, Vol. 1

Update on License Plates

The following letter was sent to the Rutland County Representatives:

On behalf of Chapter 1 of Vietnam Veterans of America, I want to encourage you to support a proposed change in the law pertaining to special organizational license plates for veterans and safety organizations. As proposed, the amendment would make the fee a one-time, rather than an annual fee, and would direct any extra funds generated beyond the cost of the plate to support the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington.

Thank you for considering this matter and the interests of Vermont veterans.

Sincerely,

John Bergeron, President

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1

And we received the following response:

Dear Mr. Bergeron:

Thank you for your letter dated January 4, 1999.

I am enclosing a copy of the bill (S.25) as introduced.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

John P. Crowley

S.25

Introduced by Senator Sears of Bennington County, Senator Crowley of Rutland County and Senator Brownell of Chittenden County

Referred to Committee on Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; safety organization plates; service organization plates; fees

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to eliminate the annual \$10.00 fee for veterans and other safety and service organization registration plates, and to redirect the revenue from veterans' plates from the transportation fund to the veterans' home needy fund.

AN ACT RELATING TO SAFETY AND SERVICE ORGANIZATION SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont: Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 304(b)(2)(A) and (B) are amended to read:

(A) At the request of the leader of a safety organization or service organization, upon application and payment of ~~*[an annual]~~ a one-time fee of \$10.00 for each set of plates in addition to the annual fee for registration, special plates indicating membership in one of the "safety organizations" or "service organizations" may be issued to registrants of vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate and of trucks registered for not more than 8,099 pounds who are members of these organizations. The applicant must provide a written statement from the appropriate official of the organization, authorizing the issuance of the plates.

(B) At the time that an organization requests the plates, it shall deposit \$1,000.00 with the commissioner. Notwithstanding section 502 of Title 32, the commissioner may charge the actual costs of production of the plates against the fees collected and the balance shall be deposited in the transportation fund. For each set of plates issued, \$10.00 of this deposit shall be deemed to be the safety organization or service organization special plate fee for each authorized applicant. When the initial deposit of \$1,000.00 is depleted, applicants shall be required to pay the \$10.00

~~*[annual]~~ *one-time fee as provided for in subdivision (b)(1) of this section. Notwithstanding section 502 of Title 32, the commissioner may charge the actual costs of production of the plates against the fees collected and shall remit the balance to the transportation fund. No organization shall charge its members any additional fee or premium charge for the authorization, right or privilege to display these special number plates. This provision shall not prevent any organization from collecting \$10.00 from each of the first 100 applicants for the special plates to recover the cost of the \$1,000.00 deposit. Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 304(j) is amended to read:

(j) The commissioner of motor vehicles shall, upon proper application for a new or renewed registration, issue special plates to Vermont veterans, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101(2), for use only on vehicles registered at the pleasure car rate and on trucks registered for not more than 8,099 pounds. Applicants shall apply on forms prescribed by the commissioner and the applicant's status as a veteran shall be certified by the Veterans' Administration or by other documentation as required by the commissioner. The type and style of the veterans' plate shall be determined by the commissioner, except that an American flag shall appear on one side of the plate. ~~*[An annual]~~ A one-time fee of \$10.00 shall be assessed in addition to the annual fee for registration. The plates shall be reissued only to the original holder of the plates or the surviving spouse. Notwithstanding section 502 of Title 32, the commissioner may charge the actual costs of production of the plates against the fees collected and shall remit the balance to the ~~*[transportation]~~ veterans' home needy fund. The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this subsection.

How to Get the New Plates

Many of you may have been wondering about the organizational plates for the Republic of Vermont. Well, finally, I have got some answers for ya all.

I talked to Commissioner David Lee last week and he apologized for not getting back to me sooner. He told me that the plates are at the prison and proofs are being set up. They should be out by this coming week. He will send a copy for our approval. We do not have a definite date for distribution, as of yet. More than likely, the middle of March.

If your current plates are due to expire before the new ones come out, renew your current plates then do a transfer when VVA's plates are ready.

The following procedure will be implemented for expedience. Please send name, address and zip code to my address, along with a copy of your membership card and I will send in that information to DMV. Mr Lee has suggested sending batches of names at a time. That way they can process several at a time and help eliminate delays.

You can request a certain number plate, however the first four (4) and #9 are reserved. Dick Doyle suggested that to be fair to all chapters, that the first 4 plates should go to a member of each chapter. It would be up to the individual chapter as who would get the plate, i.e. John Bergeron would get #1 for his outstanding leadership in the past five years. Bennington should have #2 as they are the second longest running chapter, Chester #3, St. Albans #4 and last but not least Essex (welcome home!).

You can reach me at the following address:

Stephen C. Faye

P.O. Box 6067

Rutland, Republic of Vermont 05702

It is our policy to provide an open forum to all. Therefore, the articles, letters and ads contained herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of VVA #1 or VVA National.

FROM THE OTHER SIDE

Part 4

They slowly move away with only a glance over their shoulder. My son suddenly stops and slowly returns. He stands straight and proud in front of me and snaps a salute. Something makes him move to the Wall and he puts his hand upon the Wall and touches my tears that had formed on the face of the Wall and I can tell that he senses my presence there and the pride and the love that I have for him. He falls to his knees and the tears flow from his eyes and I try my best to reassure him that it's alright and the tears do not make him any less of a man. As he moves back wiping the tears from his eyes, he silently mouths, God Bless you, Dad..... God Bless, YOU, Son..... We WILL meet someday but in the meanwhile, go on your way..... There is no hurry.....There is no hurry at all.

As I see them walk off in the distance, I yell out to THEM and EVERYONE there today, as loud as I can,.....THANKS FOR REMEMBERING and as others on this side of the Wall join in, I notice that the US Flag that so proudly flies in front of us everyday, is flapping and standing proudly straight out in the wind today.

February Meeting Info

The February meeting of VVA #1

will be held on

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1999

at 5:00 p.m. Board Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

**It will be held at 13 CENTER STREET,
DOWNTOWN HAS SOLE SHOE REPAIR.**

For Directions CALL 773-2815.

From the Desk of John Bergeron, President

.....
I have recently met with some of the faculty at the Stafford Tech. School. They are very interested in our memorial project and have offered their assistance. I will be meeting with them on a regular basis. I will need people to speak to their students about your Vietnam experiences. If any one has a video about "the wall" please let me know. One of the teachers would like to show it to her class-SOON!!

Remember Memorial Day 1999 is dedication time.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter One

P.O. Box 6301

Rutland, VT 05702

Please Forward



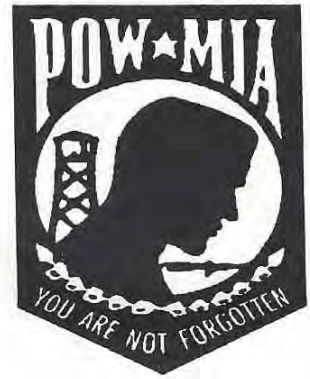
"Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1 will assist Vietnam Era Veterans, their families & others in the enhancement of their life experience through intervention and social interaction."



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

January 2000



REPORT OF VVA CHAPTER MEETING

Jan. 8, 2000

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Please see note at the end of these minutes on the rescheduling to Feb. 5 of Scott Anderson's presentation on his return trip last year to Nhi Ha.

Fourteen people were present for the dinner meeting, a good attendance. After dinner, the meeting began at 6 p.m..

Treasurer's Report: Jon Pintello reported a beginning balance of 7,142.77 for the month and a final balance of \$6,159.78.

Andy Moschetto moved to reimburse John Bergeron \$39.60 for postage and \$60 for assistance to Bill Whitney. Second Steve Faye. Approved unanimously.

Membership: Dick Doyle said software problems are delaying membership renewals by national VVA. The VVA Brattleboro chapter is now official, number 843. The state organization is looking for ways to boost membership in the coming year, such as a contest for bringing in new members. Current Chapter 1 membership is in the 120s; there are another 17 associate members.

Joining us at this meeting were three members of Vietnam Veterans of Central Vermont, an informal organization not affiliated with VVA but dedicated to the support of Vietnam veterans in the Randolph and Bethel areas and in central Vermont generally. The group, which meets twice monthly, can be reached through their president, Reg Mongeur at 234-6571.

Ron Kantorski, the new president of the Rutland County Veterans Council was introduced.

State Council: Steve Faye reported that the Vet Rock concert in Pownal June 10 is still a go. Volunteers are still needed. They will be housed at area motels. Chapter 1 has committed 17 volunteers so far. Dave Jarvie volunteered to distribute posters. The first Vet Rock concert was last year in Philadelphia and reportedly drew 37,000 people.

Steve reported that U.S. Rep. Bernie Sanders will hold a meeting about Agent Orange Jan. 29 at his office. A bill under review would widen the specifications for the illness.

John Bergeron reported that Valerie Cleary of the Rutland Garden Club and another member were interested in helping with the landscaping of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Andy Moschetto, chairman

of the Memorial Committee, reported on the last meeting of the committee. The group discussed the need to pin down a date for the dedication of the memorial. Ron Kantorski, president of the Rutland County Veterans Council, suggested the dedication at the site on Main Street could follow the traditional Memorial Day ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery, or perhaps the entire Memorial Day event might be held at the Main Street site. But he noted the decision was up to the council as a whole. Ron also emphasized the role of the council was "vets helping vets," and said he was always available for such situations.

The meeting finally settled on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, as the date for the dedication of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, whether it is totally completed or not. Mark your calendars!

The county Veterans Council meets Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

John Bergeron reported that a USO-type musical show would be held July 13 and 15 at the Paramount Theater, with rehearsals starting this month. The Chapter 1 color guard has been asked to participate. Anyone interested in performing or helping can contact Rita at 775-2778.

The meeting again considered a request to assist Otter Valley Union High student Kate Maxfield with expenses for a trip abroad. Steve Faye passed out a sheet with an explanation of Kate's about the program and his own letter requesting assistance. Dick Doyle moved to contribute \$400. Second Bill Whitney. Motion carried 6-2.

John reported receipt of a check for \$500 from Dennis Ross's wife, Carol. Dennis was a chapter member who died of cancer last year. Chapter 1 contributed to a scholarship fund in his name.

John is trying to reach Tom Reardon to check on the status of the color guard.

The Veterans Administration thanked John and the chapter for a donation of toiletries.

Faie Shepard, an associate member, has sent the chapter a donation of \$100 for the memorial.

The Chapter 1 Board of Directors will meet before the next meeting to consider the year's budget and the updating of bylaws.

New Business: Jon Pintello moved to donate \$500 to member Bill Picknell, who is recovering from cancer. Second Steve Faye. Passed unanimously.

Dick Doyle, who is involved in the Friends of Veterans non-profit group, reported that through December, the Friends had provided \$40,000 of assistance to vets in need. The focus of the group is homelessness and prevention of homelessness.

The next Chapter 1 meeting will be a dinner Saturday, Feb. 5, at 5 p.m., again at VFW Post 648 in Rutland. The board will meet at 4 p.m. to discuss budget and bylaws.

Scott Anderson's presentation on his return to Nhi Ha last year will be the featured presentation at this dinner, as Scott was unable to present it on Jan. 8. A professionally shot video will highlight scenes of the Nhi Ha battle zone, the Viet Cong tunnels of Cu Chi and an elephant ride in the Ia Drang Valley. Sure to be of interest! Please let John Bergeron (773-2815) know if you plan to attend, so the VFW can prepare plan for us.



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

February 2000



At our next meeting March 4, Chapter President John Bergeron will give a slide presentation on his trip to Honduras with Habitat for Humanity and the South American Missionary Society. The meeting is again a dinner meeting at VFW Post 648 in Rutland, dinner at 5 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m.

MINUTES FOR VVA CHAPTER 1

Meeting of Feb. 5, 2000

VFW Post 648, Rutland

The dinner portion of the meeting concluded with a video and commentary provided by Scott Anderson on his return to Vietnam with members of his old unit, part of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade of the Americal Division. Filmed by Norwegian television, the group visited Nhi Ha, scene of a major battle of the unit, exactly 30 years after the original battle. The 3-4 day battle saw the deaths of 16 members of Scott's company, including seven in his platoon. Other scenes from the video included the tunnels of Cu Chi, now a popular tourist stop; Khe Sanh; the Ia Drang Valley; and Pleiku, where Scott, while on this return trip, helped break up a fight between two bulls that had escaped from their owners.

The abbreviated business meeting got under way at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes of the last meeting stood as printed in the newsletter.

President John Bergeron reported that the balance in treasury was the same as last month, \$6,159.78, as there had been no subsequent deposits or withdrawals.

Old Business:

John B. reported on the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial project. Dedication is scheduled for Memorial Day, Monday, May 29. Anyone interested in helping with the preparations for the event should contact John or another officer or board member. Next meeting of the Memorial Committee is Feb. 16 at 7:50 a.m. at Room 212 of the Stafford Technical Center in Rutland. A discussion about the ceremony by the Rutland County Veterans Council indicated a consensus for the traditional Memorial Day ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery, followed an hour or two later by the dedication of Vietnam memorial in Main Street Park, just south of Washington Street.

V.P. Steve Faye has 50 tickets to the Vet Rock concert in Pownal June 10 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Earlybird prices are \$25. Bands committed to the event include Steppenwolf, the Marvelettes, the Drifters, the Rascals, the Coasters, the Animals 2, Black Rose Band and the Dovells. Contact Steve at 773-7305 for tickets. For control, Steve will hold the tickets until the cash has been paid. The chapter has some posters, which will be copied and distributed. Dick Doyle recommended the chapter buy a small add in the concert program. It had been hoped that this advertising would raise \$50,000, but only \$1,000 had been raised as of the last State Council meeting. Dick Doyle proposed that the chapter consider paying for the lodging for chapter volunteers.

New Business:

Saturday, Feb. 26, at Rep. Bernie Sanders' office at the State House will be the site of a hearing on Agent Orange and its impact on the health of the American soldier. Co-sponsors are Vietnam Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Call 1-800-339-9834 for details.

Dick Doyle reported that the Vermont Legislature will again take up a joint resolution regarding the desecration of the

American flag.

Dick also reported that the State Council will sponsor a membership recruiting contest. Those who bring new or lapsed members into the organization will have their names submitted for a drawing (one submission for each new member). Prizes include a one-year membership, with a grand prize of a three-year membership.

Steve Faye reported that only current VVA members will be eligible for the special VVA license plates.

A recovering Bill Picknell thanked the chapter for its recent financial support.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m. Next meeting will be March 4 at VFW Post 648 in Rutland, dinner at 5 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m. President John Bergeron will give a slide presentation on his trip to Honduras with Habitat for Humanity and the South American Missionary Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, Secretary

REPORT OF VVA CHAPTER ONE BOARD MEETING
Feb. 5, 2000 (Preceding Regular Chapter Meeting)
VFW Post 648, Rutland

The meeting was devoted a revision of the bylaws in preparation for a vote on the revisions at the annual meeting in April.

Here is a summary of the changes:

Article III. Change the address of Chapter 1 to PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702-6301.

Article V. Change wording on record-keeping to allow records more than one year old to be kept in "one or more locations to be designataed by the board of directors" (instead of "one location").

Article VI. Change wording to read: "Regular monthly meetings shall be held as determined by the Board of Directors." The previous version had called for Monday meetings at the Veterans Assistance Office, with allowance for other times and locations chosen by the board.

Article VIII. New wording allows committee chairpersons to submit oral reports at monthly meetings, instead of requiring written reports.

Article VIII, Section I, Subsection 1). New wording on the duties of the Executive Committee, begins, "To review all projects, programs and functions of the Chapter, prior to the event, and advise the membership as appropriate." The previous version required the Executive Committee to "advise the membership of any violation of local by-laws or National Constitution that may exist."

Article VIII, Section II. Change word "comprised" to "composed," to conform with good English.

Article VIII, Section IIa. For purposes of clarity, change sentence from "The representation of the Honor Guard shall be left up to the discretion of the Chairperson," to, "The activities of the Honor Guard shall be coordinated by the captain."

Article VIII, Section III. New wording: "The Board of Directors will be responsible for timely presentation of awards. Policies of each award cannot be changed without the approval of the Board of Directors." Previous wording had called for appointment of an Awards Committee.

Article VIII, Section IV. Delete section. The section had called for appointment of an "Invest-5 Committee."

Article XI. New section added as follows: "Monetary requests from individuals or groups for humanitarian or other worthwhile purposes should be submitted in writing and will be considered and acted on by the membership at a regular meeting. However, an emergency fund of up to \$150 will be available for dispersal by the president, with approval by one other officer. Such dispersal will be reported to the membership at the next regular meeting.

These changes to the chapter bylaws will be voted on at the chapter's annual meeting in April. Copies of the new and existing bylaws are available from John Bergeron at Downtown Has Sole, 13 Center St., Rutland.

Printing of this newsletter has been generously donated by shareholders of Central Vermont Public Service Corp.



Vietnam Veterans Of America *Chapter One*



March 2000

Please try to attend the Annual Meeting Saturday April 1. We will elect officers for the coming year and vote on changes in the Chapter 1 By-Laws, and it's important that we have a quorum.

Anyone wishing to run for an office should notify President John Bergeron (802-773-2815 , Chapter 1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702-6301) beforehand or express interest at the meeting.

The meeting is again a dinner meeting, this time at our old meeting place, Seward Family Restaurant , 224 N. Main St., in Rutland, dinner at 5 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m. The Board of Directors will meet at 4:30 p.m.

MINUTES FOR VVA CHAPTER 1

Meeting of March 4, 2000

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Following dinner, President John Bergeron gave a slide presentation on his trip to Honduras with Habitat for Humanity and the South American Missionary Society. Chapter 1 helped sponsor John and member Phil Savery, who helped with home construction as part of the country's recovery from Hurricane Mitch in 1997.

The business meeting began at 6:40 p.m.

The minutes from the Feb. 5 meeting had been published in the February newsletter and stood as read.

In the absence of a treasurer's report, John Bergeron reported about \$6,400 in the chapter treasury.

John reported a new member had switched to Chapter 1 from the Glens Falls chapter. There are about 25 past members who have not renewed their memberships.

Vice President Steve Faye reported that Middlebury is starting a chapter, as is Montpelier. Newport may eventually have a chapter.

Steve reported sales of six tickets to Vet Rock at the introductory price of \$25. That price will hold until the end of March and then go to \$30. The gate price for the June 10 rock concert at the former racetrack in Pownal is \$40. Contact Steve at 773-7305 for tickets.

Andy Moschetto reported on the continuing work of the Memorial Committee, which has been meeting weekly. Participants, besides John B. and Andy, have included contractor and chapter member Ernie Smalley, Valerie Cleary of the Rutland Garden Club, Laurie Wilson, who teaches architectural drafting at the Stafford Technical Center, and Jack Crowther, chapter secretary. Some streamlining of the project is being considered to keep costs in line. A "stamped concrete" surface is currently being considered for the main traffic area of the memorial, with a sandblasted concrete surface as the alternative. Larry Bolgioni has said he wants to donate the POW-MIA flag for the memorial.

Jack C. made the motion that Ernie Smalley, who is donating a portion of his services, be named the contractor for the memorial as he has been taking part in the planning and is capable of pulling things together to meet the May 29 dedication date. Bob Rummel seconded the motion. Although the motion met with general approval, the lack of a quorum meant that formal action could not be taken.

Jack also proposed that \$2,500 be pledged from the Chapter's regular funds to supplement the approximately \$8,900 in the memorial fund. This would allow work on the memorial to go forward as currently planned. Bob Rummel proposed amend-

ing the motion to allow the memorial to access up to \$3,000 from the chapter's general fund to complete the memorial. No objections were expressed, but again, no formal action could be taken because of the lack of a quorum.

Anyone with input on the above two matters should contact John Bergeron at 773-2815 with their views or speak at the Annual Meeting.

In new business, Steve Faye reported that Vermont's Adjutant General had called a Muster 2000 event scheduled for the Essex Fairgrounds on Aug. 12. The Honor the Vet picnic in Bennington scheduled for the same day may need to be rescheduled.

It was noted that former Vietnamese soldiers in California are joining VVA chapters, apparently as associate members.

Steve F. attended the symposium conducted by Rep. Bernie Sanders on Feb. 26 in Montpelier. About 40-50 people attended. Steve said the 3rd Marine Division, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and the 101st Airborne Division were units that were heavily exposed. Dan Duffy is heading a study on Agent Orange at the VA Hospital in White River Junction. Steve stressed the importance for vets who may have been exposed to be tested.

It was also noted that vets need to register with the VA Hospital, even if they don't currently need services. The reason is to give the VA a list of vets in the area who may one day need services. This is valuable data to present when VA funding issues arise.

Bob Rummel, the director of Dodge Development Center, a transitional housing project for homeless veterans, presented his idea for an annual fund-raiser for the center. Bob noted the center is the only facility of its type in the two-state area of Vermont and New Hampshire. The cost for housing 10-12 vets is about \$43-\$45 a day, or \$140,000 to \$150,000 a year. Per diem assistance to the residents covers only \$19 per day, and so far ongoing support has come from only three veterans organizations, including Chapter 1. Bob proposes "The Long Walk Home," a fund-raising walk the length of the Long Trail, from Massachusetts to the Canadian border, envisioning an annual event that might raise \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year.

A core group of end-to-end hikers would make the entire trip and, in Bob's thinking, be supplemented with other groups of hikers traveling portions of the trail. The Green Mountain Club, custodians of the Long Trail, has expressed a high level of interest in participating.

It appears likely the project will go forward. The hike is planned for the month of June and may officially kick off at the dedication of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial on May 29. **Anyone wishing to offer support to The Long Walk Home may contact Rummel or Robert Lefter at the Dodge Development Center.**

Jack C. passed around copies of the revised by-laws for Chapter 1. These new by-laws will be taken up and voted on at the Annual Meeting in April. In addition to the changes noted in the last newsletter, the following are also proposed, following a review by Jack and John B.

ARTICLE IV, Section I. The board will perform the responsibilities outlined in the National Constitution.
[Added.]

ARTICLE VII, Section I, Article 1). Drinking of alcoholic beverages at meetings of the Chapter is prohibited. No person who, in the judgment of the presiding officer, is intoxicated may participated in a Chapter meeting.

ARTICLE VIII, Section I. The Board of Directors may appoint an Executive Committee as outlined in the National Constitution. [Replaces confusing wording in the present by-laws. Subsections 1 and 2 defining the duties of the Executive Committee are eliminated. The National Constitution directs the chapter Board of Directors to define the duties of the Executive Committee in a resolution creating such committee. Chapter 1 does not currently have an Executive Committee.]

ARTICLE VIII, Section II. [Change "in accordance to" to "in accordance with" for more natural wording.]

ARTICLE X. [Changes reference to "Chapter #1 Constitution" to "Chapter #1 By-Laws," since the rules of the organization are referred to on the cover page as "By-Laws."]

Copies of the revised By-Laws are available from John Bergeron or Jack Crowther.

Printing of this newsletter has been generously donated by shareholders of Central Vermont Public Service Corp.



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

April 2000



MINUTES FOR VVA CHAPTER 1

Annual Meeting of April 8, 2000
Sewards Family Restaurant, Rutland

The annual meeting began at 6:19 p.m.

Treasurer Jon Pintello reported a balance of \$6,588.42. No checks for the chapter's share of current dues have been received from national VVA this year.

Color Guard. Tom Reardon reported that Loyalty Day is May 7. The color guard will march. The Prospect Mountain Memorial Service for MIAs and POWs at Lake George has invited the chapter to participate on June 4. It was agreed that Chapter 1 will not take part, since other chapter events are around this time. Andy Moschetto moved to contribute \$25 for an ad in the program for the above event. Second Dick Doyle. Passed unanimously.

Tom will commit to participation of the color guard in the Brandon Independence Day parade on July 1. Also of note: the Vermont Muster on Aug. 12, promoted by the Vermont Adjutant General; Veterans Recognition Day picnic at the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington on Aug. 12; and the Nov. 11 Veterans Day event sponsored by the Boy Scouts in Northfield.

Tom raised the issue of uniformity of dress of the color guard and whether there should be new uniforms and some standardization required. After airing of views Jack Crowther proposed that Tom bring some suggested guidelines to the next meeting for review.

Steve Faye reported on the Region 1 Conference in Meriden, Conn. on April 1. He and Bob Rummel attended from Chapter 1. Steve called it one of the better regional conferences he has attended, with 70-80 people in attendance, no national officers and no politicians. All participants were tested for hepatitis C, recognized as a threat to Vietnam veterans' health. Senate Bill S210 and a House bill would make this disease part of a benefits package for veterans. Steve noted all three Vermont congressmen have supported the bill. Among a leadership group of 119 veterans previously tested, 35-40 tested positive for the hepatitis C virus, which can take 20-25 years to manifest itself.

Steve reported that the Montpelier area is poised to become the seventh VVA chapter in Vermont.

Reporting on the VVA State Council meeting earlier in the day, Steve noted all officers were re-elected, including himself as vice president; John Miner, president; Cal Cole, secretary; and Ed Jones, treasurer.

Steve said the Vermont Thunder motorcycle ride and rally was dying out, and perhaps VVA could help perpetuate it. The picnic at the Veterans Home in Bennington will begin at 10 a.m. Aug. 26 and will coincide with a Civil War encampment there. Tom Reardon moved to contribute the requested \$100 for the picnic. Second Bill Picknell. Passed unanimously.

Note to volunteers for the June 10 Vet Rock concert in Pownal: Book your rooms as soon as possible, as rooms in the area are going fast. Chapter help may be available on the cost. See later discussion on this.

Membership. Dick Doyle said the accounting of the national VVA to the chapter is "in shambles." For example, a supposedly newer printout of current members had 40 fewer names than an older one. An individual who paid dues in September got his card only last week.

Dick said current chapter membership is in the 120's. If a member has a membership problem, such as a wrong address or no membership card, call him at 802-885-1421.

Dick has asked Diana Harrington, a staffer for Sen. Jeffords, to make note in the Congressional Record of Chapter 1's 20th anniversary on April 13. She agreed to do so.

Memorial Committee. Andy Moschetto reported on construction in progress. The dedication of the memorial is slated for May 29. Larry Bolgioni, a World War II prisoner of war, has presented a POW-MIA flag on behalf of VFW Post 648 of Rutland. Andy also noted the donation of a laptop computer from U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Rutland.

~~VFW Auxiliary is donating the American~~
John Bergeron noted that the VFW ^{Auxiliary} will also donate an American flag for the memorial.

Jim Ryan has agreed to speak at the dedication ceremony. Rep Tom Costello had been willing to speak but will be out of state on that date.

Among those willing to serve on a dedication committee are Andy Moschetto, Tom, Steve, Andy Megrath, Jon, Dick and Jack. The list of those killed in action from Rutland County stands at 18. The names will be engraved around the base of the sculpture.

OLD BUSINESS. Dick Doyle moved to purchase a \$100 ad for the Vet Rock program booklet. Second Jon Pintello. Passed unanimously.

Jack mentioned the chapter's previous vote to re-establish the Ethan Allen 100+ award for service to veterans. The name is to be the Don Bodette 100+ award, after the local man who helped spearhead the formation of a community-based Vietnam veterans organization in the U.S. Don died of cancer in 1997. The chapter will discuss this at a future meeting.

Andy Megrath will attend Rolling Thunder in Washington and is willing to leave any mementoes at, or take rubbings from, the Vietnam Memorial. Call him at 802-775-1745 with your requests.

NEW BUSINESS. Jon Pintello asked about the chapter donating to the World War II memorial, and moved that the chapter donate \$1,000. Second Steve Faye. Passed unanimously.

Dick Doyle proposed that the chapter consider reimbursing volunteers for Vet Rock to help cover the cost of rooms for those that stay over the night before. The matter will be taken up at a future meeting.

Changes to the chapter bylaws have been published in the newsletter over the last two months. Dick moved to accept the changes. Second Andy Moschetto. Passed unanimously.

Jim Ryan assumed the position of moderator, in accord with his nomination by the board of directors at the earlier meeting. Those nominated included: president, John Bergeron, vice president, Steve Faye; treasurer, Andy Megrath; secretary, Jack Crowther; and board members, Dick Doyle, Andy Moschetto, Jon Pintello, Bill Picknell and Tom Reardon. The board of directors was proposed to be the nominating committee. Andy Moschetto moved that the meeting cast one vote for the slate of nominees. Second Andy Megrath. Passed unanimously.

Next meeting will be May 6, again at VFW Post 648 on Wales Street in Rutland. Dinner at 5 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m. This will be the final chapter meeting before the scheduled May 29 dedication of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Please attend and plan to participate in the dedication, the culmination of years of work by many people.

Steve Faye concluded the meeting by displaying a plaque presented to Chapter 1 at the conference, citing our pioneering role in the establishment of Vietnam Veterans of America.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sewards Family Restaurant, Rutland, April 8, 2000

Meeting began at 4:42 p.m. Board members present were John Bergeron, Steve Faye, Jon Pintello, Jack Crowther, Andy Moschetto and Dick Doyle. Ernie Smalley was present to explain the contract for work on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Ernie explained the contract for work on the memorial, to be handled by his company, Smalley Contractors. He said the contract is a standard architectural contract, providing protection for the owners, in this case Chapter 1, more than for the contractor. Maximum cost for work spelled out in the contract is \$10,375, which covers excavation, concrete work, installation of fixtures and supervision -- the major elements of the project. The basis for the charges is the contractor's cost, with no markup. Smalley Contractors will be making a contribution toward the costs. Cost estimates in the contract may go down if services are donated. Chapter 1 may pay some contractors directly, in which case those costs would not be paid to the contractor.

The contract included various drawings, schedules and exhibits. Smalley's insurance certificate covers the overall job but does not cover volunteer labor. Chapter 1 needs to check the insurance coverage of any volunteers that provide free services, such as the Rutland Garden Club or Rutland Marble and Granite. Andy will check with City Hall on the city's coverage.

Dick Doyle moved that the board instruct President John Bergeron to sign the contract with Smalley Contractors to act as the owner's (Chapter 1's) representative in constructing the memorial. Second Steve Faye. Passed unanimously.

Ernie said that not having the stamp yet for the stamped concrete was making him nervous, as the delivery time was listed at three weeks by contractors Jim and Buddy Miles. Ernie will talk to Buddy. The stamp is pressed down on top of the wet concrete to make a stone pattern.

We also need to check with the Rutland Garden Club on plantings around the memorial.

Jack moved that the board appropriate up to \$3,000 from Chapter 1's treasury to supplement money in the memorial fund (about \$8,900) to construct the memorial. Second Dick Doyle. Passed unanimously.

After some discussion, Andy moved to accept the following wording on the granite stone marker that will sit near the flagpole in the memorial:

Dedicated to the Men and Women From Rutland County
Who Served in the Vietnam War, 1961-1975
And to All Veterans
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1, Rutland, Vermont
With Thanks to Our Many Supporters
May 29, 2000

Second, Dick Doyle. Passed unanimously.

Jack moved to designate Jim Ryan moderator for the election of officers at the annual meeting. Second Jon Pintello. Passed unanimously.

Steve Faye briefed the board on the Vet Rock concert. There are no corporate sponsors at this time. VVA will have to sell 6,000 tickets to break even. The bands are costing \$70,000 and the state police security will cost \$13,500. In Pennsylvania, there is a lawsuit because some people didn't get paid for last year's concert. Steve feels we can carry out the concert with sales of 6,000 tickets. A radio station in Rutland and one in Burlington are interested in promoting the concert. The VVA State Council is considering whether it wants to bring the event back next year. Thirty-five states have Vet Rock concerts booked.

Printing of this newsletter has been generously donated by shareholders of Central Vermont Public Service Corp.



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

May 2000



A planning meeting of the Chapter 1 Board of Directors will take place July 6 at VFW Post 648 on Wales Street in Rutland at 7 p.m. to talk about the future of Chapter 1. What do we want to be as an organization? What projects will we carry out? What is our vision and how do we go about fulfilling it? All members are invited to attend and contribute to this important session. Send us a note with your ideas, if you're unable to attend in person.

MINUTES FOR VVA CHAPTER 1

Meeting of June 3, 2000

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Meeting called to order at 6:09 p.m. Seven members present.

Treasurer's report: Andy Megrath reported \$4,059.42 in the regular chapter account, \$5,019.93 in the money market account, and \$5,939.74 in the memorial fund account.

The final bill for the stamped concrete in the memorial is \$1,700 with a two-year guarantee on the surface condition of the work, the contractor's liability to be limited to \$500.

There was discussion of the Brandon July 4 parade, actually held this year on July 1, and the Adjutant General's Call to Muster Aug. 12 at Camp Johnson. The Veterans Home annual picnic has been postponed to late August.

Steve Faye reported on the VVA State Council meeting earlier in the day. Those attending learned that the big Vet Rock concert slated for June 10 in Pownal had been canceled by the Vet Rock organization. State Council President John Miner got the word about 2:30 p.m. that day. The debacle is leaving the State Council out \$17,000 to \$18,000, according to Steve, a far different picture that the large income potential that had been touted initially. State police security had to be canceled, and \$5,000 worth of food had been ordered. Steve's account indicated further that Vet Rock's reason for canceling was a lack of ticket sales, lack of money and not enough concessionaires. Vet Rock canceled a concert at Eastern States May 20. After the concert in Pennsylvania flopped recently, the state council president tragically committed suicide. VVA lawyers are consulting with the Vermont attorney general's office.

Adding to the Vet Rock fiasco, the Black Rose band, which was scheduled to play, had come early to spend time in the area. Vet Rock will probably not surface again, Steve predicted, though four more Vet Rock concerts are scheduled. Money from local ticket sales will have to be refunded. Chapter 1 had sold 28 tickets. It was agreed that the chapter would return the money directly to those who bought tickets.

President John Bergeron asked who was liable for the \$17,000 or so in money lost. Steve said liability rested with Vet Rock and the State Council, not with the chapters.

As a result of elections, Steve Faye has stepped down as vice president of the State Council and been replaced by Buster Holmberg, president of the Chester VVA chapter.

On other matters, the Vermont VVA has a total of 399 members, 31st in the nation. However, associate membership for the state ranks 21st in the nation.

Rutland City Alderman Greg Thayer may bring forward a resolution congratulating Chapter 1 on its 20th anniversary this spring.

John Bergeron thanked those present for help on the memorial dedication. He described feedback as "all pretty positive."

Jack Crowther noted that the names on the Honor Roll display at the memorial are being updated based on new names received. He estimated a new display could be in place in two months. The streetlight that will illuminate the flagpole has not yet been installed, so the flag is being raised and lowered daily.

Andy Megrath noted that the VVA national organization is sending a van around the country to test veterans for Hepatitis C, a serious disease spread primarily by contact with blood of an infected person. Inoculation guns, contact with the wounded and sharing of drug needles are all means through which the virus may have infected soldiers. The only cost to bring the van to a location is the cost of gas. Andy will get more information with the idea of bringing the van to Vermont. Harley Davidson is giving away a Sportster 2000 to a name drawn from those tested.

The July meeting of the chapter will be canceled, as it was last year. Jack Crowther suggested the board of directors have a meeting for planning purposes, saying the chapter needed to decide what kind of an organization it would be and what activities it would pursue. Kym Hoerr suggested that support for a World War II or Korean memorial in Rutland might be good projects. Jon Pintello said Chapter 1 needed a "vision." Steve Faye said the chapter needed to be more widely recognized in the community.

The planning meeting of the board will take place July 6 at VFW Post 648 on Wales Street in Rutland at 7 p.m. All members are invited to attend and contribute to this important session. Send us a note with your ideas, if you're unable to attend.

Steve Faye noted the Moving Wall, a portable version of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., would be in Szot Park in Chicopee, Mass., from Aug. 22-29.

Meeting adjourned about 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, Secretary



Vietnam Veterans Of America *Chapter One*

July 2000



Scenes from the dedication May 29 of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial included the gathering of relatives of those killed in action and the placing of flowers next to the names inscribed on the monument. Several hundred attended. (Photos by Lydia Moschetto)

REPORT OF VVA CHAPTER 1 BOARD MEETING

Meeting of July 6, 2000

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Present were John Bergeron, Andy Moschetto, Jack Crowther and guest Ernie Smalley.

The agenda for the meeting was a discussion of long-range plans and goals for the chapter in the wake of the successful dedication of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial on May 29.

As a starting point for discussion, Jack Crowther had passed around a list of possible activities, some new and some that the chapter has been involved in before. Among items included were maintenance of a color guard, support of the Dodge House for homeless veterans, scholarships, a fund-raising concert, an educational program with schools involving display panels for the memorial, rental of space for the chapter, and a Memorial Day celebration.

Ernie Smalley, speaking as an "outsider," noted the good publicity from the dedication of the memorial and said he thought the chapter needed to cultivate an image that would broaden the appeal of the organization.

The "social aspect" of the chapter and the importance of that element in drawing more interest, came up for discussion. That issue is related to where the chapter meets, and the group discussed some possibilities. Among them are rental of space in the VFW building, which would cost from \$200-\$300 a month, depending on the terms of the rental and space selected. Ernie Smalley might donate some space in his West Street building, but it would need some finish work and would require payment of heating and electric bills. The Gryphon building is another possibility. One benefit of the VFW space is the availability of window space for displays.

John Bergeron's shoe repair shop on Center Street has served double-duty as a headquarters, but with his new job, John will be closing the store in the foreseeable future.

The color guard, victim of dwindling participation, was discussed, the thought being that it remained a viable activity for roughly a half-dozen annual events.

No decisions were made, and the topics will be discussed further.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, Secretary

**The next Chapter 1 meeting will be Saturday, Aug. 5
at VFW Post 648, dinner at 5 p.m. and meeting at 6 p.m.**



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

August 2000



MINUTES FOR VVA CHAPTER 1

Meeting of Aug. 5, 2000

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Meeting called to order at 6 p.m. by John Bergeron.

Treasurer's report: Andy Megrath reported \$3,033.60, \$1,437.37 and \$201.81 in the chapter's various accounts. The Memorial Fund account is being closed and the remaining money put into the checking account.

Color Guard: Tom Reardon reported that the color guard was going downhill and needed more participation. The color guard involves marching in four or five parades during the parade season, and Chapter 1 will provide a uniform. Anyone interested may contact Tom by calling 518-499-2488 or by writing the chapter at P.O. Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702-6301.

Tom was at the Prospect Hill POW ceremonies.

A Call to Muster was scheduled for Aug. 12 at the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds.

The Moving Wall was scheduled for Plattsburgh on ~~Aug.~~ ^{Sept.} 12.

A motion was made to suspend the meeting to have gubernatorial candidate Bill Meub speak.

Discussion was held about renting space at the VFW for \$200 per month. Motion made by Tom Reardon to rent VFW space at \$200 with first option to lease the space. Seconded by David Jarvie. Motion passed.

Discussion of the Disabled American Veterans van fund. \$24,000 is needed. Tom Reardon moved to donate \$500. Seconded by Andy Moschetto. Motion passed.

Andy Moschetto proposed a donation to Keith Brouillard who has been diagnosed with leukemia. Steve Faye moved to donate \$300. Seconded by Tom Reardon. Motion passed.

Krista LaFountain read two poems she wrote for the dedication of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Next meeting will be Saturday, Sept. 9 at 5 p.m. for dinner (\$6), and 6 p.m. for the meeting.

Submitted by
Steve Faye, Vice President



Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One

September 2000



MINUTES FOR VVA CHAPTER 1

Meeting of Sept. 9, 2000

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Meeting called to order at 6:13 p.m. by President John Bergeron.

Bill Fitzgerald, who recently became a life member, joined seven other members in attendance.

Treasurer's report: Andy Megrath reported \$3,149.94 in the regular checking account and \$3,039.39 in the money market account. Recent income included \$1,065 in July and \$1,444 in August from rip tickets at Tomasi's. Andy will move \$2,000 from the regular checking account to the money market account as soon as we get another check from Tomasi's. This will allow us to draw a higher interest rate on that account.

Andy Moschetto moved to contribute \$500 to Joe Lee, 55, of Marshfield, a two-tour Vietnam veteran injured in a tractor accident this summer. Second Andy Megrath. Steve Faye will research the matter a bit further, but the donation was unanimously approved subject to Steve's checking.

Discussion of rental of one large room and two attached rooms at the VFW for \$200 per month, based on a month-to-month rental. Chapter 1 will request the following provisions as part of the rental:

- Access to the area whenever the VFW is open.
- Use of the second-floor kitchenette and bathroom.
- Permission to attach pictures, etc., to the walls.
- Exclusive tenancy of the space in question.
- Any major changes, such as painting of the walls, to be cleared with the VFW.
- Chapter 1 will have 30 days' notice if required to vacate the premises for a lease tenant.
- Electricity and heat are to be included.
- Chapter 1 will be responsible for keeping the rental area clean.

Steve Faye moved to approve the rental with the above conditions. Second Kym Hoerr. Passed unanimously.

The minutes of the Sept. 12 meeting are corrected to show that the Moving Wall is to be in Plattsburgh on Sept. 12, not Aug. 12.

Discussion of the manning of the Vermont State Fair booth, the consensus being that spotty staffing produced an unsatisfactory result. The Fair Association wanted the booth staffed for the full fair, but VVA chapters only staffed it for three days. There have been reports of intoxication among members of another chapter that staffed the booth one day. An official of the fair has said the fair will not deal with VVA in the future. Steve Faye will write a letter of apology from Chapter 1.

Discussion of dissatisfaction with the VVA State Council, in particular with results of projects initiated by the council, such as Vet Rock, the Vermont State Fair booth and the sale of granite fragments from The Wall.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Next meeting will be Saturday, Oct. 7 at 5 p.m. for dinner (\$7), and 6 p.m. for the meeting.

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary



Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One

October 2000



Got a Picture to Share?

War-zone humor was evident in this sign at a mortar platoon emplacement at Lai Khe in late 1965-early 1966. "Latex Estates" is a reference to the rubber plantation where the unit was based, "at the junction of Goodyear Avenue and Firestone Lane." The sign touts the location as "The Latest Word in Modern Living . . . Commuting Distance of NYC only 13,00 Miles . . . Major Shopping Centers: Ben Cat, Check Point . . . Vacancy, Inquire Within . . . No Peddlers, Wild Dogs, Viet Cong Allowed." (Photo by Jack Crowther).

If you have a good, clear photo from your service days that you'd like to share, send it with caption information to Jack at 29 Giorgetti Blvd., Rutland, VT 05701. Please include return address.

REPORT OF VVA CHAPTER 1

Meeting of Oct. 7, 2000

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Meeting was held informally, with five members present.

New members include Laura Lyman of Springfield and Wilbur DuBray of Rutland. Welcome Laura and Wilbur! We hope to see you at a future meeting.

Treasurer's report: Andy Megrath reported \$2,595.94 in the regular checking account and \$3,050.81 in the money market account.

The chapter has secured rental of three second-floor rooms of the VFW on a month-to-month basis, with the club agreeing to provisions spelled out in our last newsletter. Rent will be \$200 per month.

Tom Reardon has requested the chapter purchase two new M-16 color guard rifles. These would be non-working facsimiles costing \$500 for the two. The request will be considered at a future meeting. The color guard has been operating on an informal basis of late, so this will be a factor in weighing future expenditures.

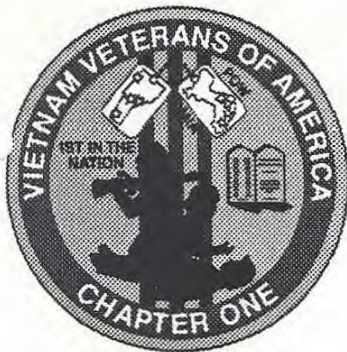
The statewide veterans parade in Northfield is thought to be Nov. 11, but the chapter has not received official information on it. It was launched last year by the Green Mountain Council, Boy Scouts of America, and got rave reviews.

The chapter is planning a small gathering to honor Smalley Contractors for their work on the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Andy Moschetto, who chaired the Memorial Committee. Andy is returning shortly to the New York City area. Time constraints prevent an invitation to the full membership.

Nov. 6-11 will be Hire a Vet Week, which will be observed in all the Vermont offices of the Department of Employment and Training. Watch for media releases or call the local veterans employment representative at your local DET office for more information.

Next meeting will be Saturday, Nov. 4 at 5 p.m. for dinner (\$7), and 6 p.m. for the meeting.

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

November 2000



ATTENTION CHAPTER 1 MEMBERS — Join us for a new beginning Saturday, Dec. 2, as we move from our former headquarters in the Downtown Has Sole shoe repair shop at 13 Center St. to our newly rented club rooms at the VFW at 15 Wales St. The move will begin at 4 p.m. and should not take long. For those who are hungry, we can order a pizza after the move and begin our regular meeting about 6 p.m. Help us build momentum for the future following the success of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial this past May!

MINUTES OF VVA CHAPTER 1

Meeting of Nov. 4, 2000

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Meeting called to order by Vice President Steve Faye.

The Disabled American Veterans are pondering the future of their building on Woodstock Avenue in Rutland, as the maintenance costs of \$4,000 a year are beyond the club's resources.

The report of the Oct. 7 meeting was accepted as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's report: Andy Megrath reported \$3,189.62 in the regular checking account and \$5,061.27 in the money market account.

Vietnam Veterans of Central Vermont, a group not formally affiliated with Vietnam Veterans of America, has decided to disband, as it finds itself unable to carry out its public education mission. The group has disbursed its funds and sent Chapter 1 a check for \$142.49.

Membership: Dick Doyle reported 115 regular members and 11 associate members as of the Sept. 27 printout. Dick is compiling a database of those whose names appear on the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial and has identified 43 who are not members of Chapter 1. He will be mailing out membership applications this week, along with a letter inviting their involvement.

John Miner, VVA State Council President and national VVA Region 1 director, will be involved in the redesign of the Sharon rest area.

Color Guard: Tom Reardon noted the departure of a number of past participants, leaving the guard severely depleted. At least four chapter members will be available to march in the Veterans Day parade in Northfield, however. Tom reported the color guard's existing M-16 replicas are broken. Two replacements would cost \$195 apiece, but none will be purchased until the future of the color guard is clearer. Tom said Bob Eastman of the VFW has said he'd like to see the VVA chapter and the VFW work together and that they might march together as a color guard.

The VFW, from whom we rent our current quarters, will have to cancel the annual Loyalty Day Parade if a chairman is not found soon. This led to a discussion of joint efforts of various local veterans groups. Jack Crowther noted that American Legion Commander Gary Fitzgerald recently expressed to him the hope that VVA and the Legion could work together. Jack moved that the chapter invite each of the veterans groups in the Rutland area to its first meeting of the year to discuss Memorial Day plans and other collaborative efforts. Second Tom Reardon. Passed unanimously. Steve Faye will contact the other organizations.

Steve Faye noted Alderman Greg Thayer's offer of support for additional monuments in the Main Street Park area of Rutland for World War II and Korean War veterans. Chapter 1 members have expressed interest in supporting such memorial efforts.

The chapter's relationship with the VVA State Council again came up for discussion. The council is charged with airing issues of mutual interest to the chapters and disseminating information, but Chapter 1 has repeatedly been critical of the council's handling of this role. It was surmised that so long as Chapter 1 filed its required financial and election reports it could withdraw from the council. Jack Crowther moved that the chapter withdraw from the council. Second Tom Reardon. After some discussion, Andy Megrath moved to table the motion until the January meeting to give the State Council time to respond. Second Bill Fitzgerald. Passed unanimously. The chapter will draft a letter to the State Council stating its grievances.

Dick Doyle suggested the chapter might get some help sprucing up its new quarters in the VFW by contacting the state probation office and seeing if any offenders might help.

Tiny White of the Essex VVA chapter has approached Chapter 1 for a \$500 contribution for an engraved VVA stone in the veterans cemetery in Randolph. The chapter will await a formal request and description of the proposal.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Remember: Next meeting Saturday, Dec. 2, at 4 p.m. for the moving of VVA files and materials from 13 Center St. to our rooms at the VFW at 15 Wales St. Meeting to follow about 6 p.m.

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

December 2000



REPORT OF VVA CHAPTER 1 MEETING

Dec. 2, 2000

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Meeting was held informally, as group had moved chapter materials from President John Bergeron's store to our new quarters at the VFW post.

Tiny White of the Essex VVA chapter attended to present details of his request for a \$500 contribution from Chapter 1 for an engraved VVA stone in the Vermont veterans cemetery in Randolph. This was in response to Chapter 1's request for more details about the stone, which would be at the base of a flagpole flying the VVA flag. Tiny presented his thoughts on a design, which included a color version of the VVA logo and the words, "In Remembrance of All Veterans," and the VVA motto, "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another." It was suggested that the wording mention the Vermont VVA chapters' sponsorship of the stone. Jack Crowther objected to the "Never Again . . ." wording, expressing a preference for a more positive message, such as "Dedicated by Vietnam Veterans of America, Vermont Chapters, In Tribute to All Veterans." Chapter 1 members voiced support for the contribution to the \$2,500 stone, which is the last available at the Randolph Cemetery. A motion will be made at the next meeting to approve the contribution. Tiny indicated the precise inscription would be worked out in consultation with the chapters.

Jack Crowther read the final draft of a letter to the VVA State Council noting Chapter 1's intention to withdraw from the council. A motion to formally withdraw has been tabled until the January meeting to allow the council to respond to Chapter 1's concerns, if it chooses to do so. The letter states in part, "Chapter 1 believes the council could served a useful role in disseminating information to the chapters and coordinating efforts on joint projects, such as the Veterans Home picnic. Unfortunately, Chapter 1 feels the council has often failed in this charge." The letter cites several specifics, including the aborted Vet Rock concert and the VVA booth at the Vermont State Fair this year. As there were no changes, President Bergeron signed the letter.

Jack indicated a deadline of approximately Dec. 15 for the next update of the Honor Roll display panel at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Approximately 90 names have been added to the "Served in the Vietnam War" roll since last Memorial Day. About two-thirds are already on view at the memorial, and the others will be added. The total Honor Roll now stands at 216 "served" and 18 "killed in action."

Vice President Steve Faye will invite the other veterans groups based in Rutland to attend the Chapter's Jan. 6 meeting to discuss cooperative efforts for a Memorial Day celebration.

Remember: Next meeting Saturday, Jan. 6, VFW Post 648, Rutland, dinner optional at 5 p.m. (\$7 per person), meeting at 6 p.m.

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary

Dec. 2, 2000

Mr. John Miner, President
VVA State Council
Vermont Veterans Home
134 Beech St.
Bennington, VT 05201

Dear President Miner:

At its regular meeting Nov. 4, VVA Chapter 1 took up a motion to withdraw from the State Council. After some discussion, the motion was tabled until our January meeting to allow the council to respond to our concerns, if it chooses to do so.

The motion was made reluctantly, as Chapter 1 believes the council could serve a useful role in disseminating information to the chapters and coordinating efforts on joint projects, such as the Veterans Home picnic. Unfortunately, Chapter 1 feels the council has often failed in this charge. In particular, we note the following:

- Vet Rock was undertaken with virtually no consultation with the chapters, then wound up being so poorly planned and publicized that it was canceled at the 11th hour, causing some discredit to the organization.
- Marketing of the granite fragments from The Wall, a project announced as a potentially lucrative source of funds for VVA efforts in Vermont, has seemingly fizzled without any appreciable benefit or explanation as to what has happened. The handling of that project was also closely controlled by a small state-level group with little input from the chapters.
- The VVA booth at the Vermont State Fair in Rutland proved a major embarrassment. Rutland's warning that the fair needed a commitment to man the booth during the full run of the fair was ignored. Staffing was minimal and spanned only parts of three days. Disorderly behavior by one chapter sullied the reputation of VVA, particularly Rutland Chapter 1, and no discipline has evidently been taken by the State Council. Again, unilateral action by the council president produced a very negative result.

- The council has ignored requests to inform representatives by mail of the time of meetings and to make the minutes of meetings available and continues to ignore this most basic function.

For these and other reasons, Chapter 1 feels that the State Council has not only failed to serve a useful purpose but has more than once damaged the reputation of VVA in Vermont.

As mentioned, Chapter 1 has tabled the motion until its January meeting, which will probably occur Jan. 6, 2001. We have done this to allow the State Council to offer any response to the above.

Sincerely,

John Bergeron, President
Chapter 1, VVA